

# Merry Christmas From The Star!

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December 15, 1982

## Advocate Editors Stress Importance Of Gay Press

By JAMES K. GRAHAM

The gay press is important because it helps bring people together through communication and personal contact, but it is fragile because contemporary American society is not only homophobic but afraid of sex. As a result, it is only as strong as the support it gets from the community it helps to create.

This was the message delivered by Robert McQueen and Pat Califia, editors of The Advocate, to an audience of more than 50 men and women from Sacramento's gay and lesbian community at CSUS on Dec. 2. Their lecture was sponsored by the Lambda Media Association and co-sponsored by The Sacramento Star and the Lesbian/Gay People's Union.

McQueen began with a history of The Advocate, now celebrating its 15th anniversary. It began in Los Angeles in 1966 as a monthly newsletter with a press run of 500 copies. In six months, it had grown to 3500 copies, and hit 5500 at the end of its first year.

Having gone national in 1969, The Advocate won its second-class postage permit in 1970. McQueen described this as a "great victory" for the gay press, because it made possible relatively low-cost mailing. It also marked a grudging acknowledgment by the Postal Service that the gay press are, in fact, "real" newspapers.

When the original owners "burnt out" in 1975, they sold The Advocate to David B. Goodstein. He, like them, was

allied with the older, more conservative, "homophile" element. But he was also a businessman, and instituted changes that helped make the publication more commercially viable as well as more politically savvy.

Among these changes were redefining The Advocate as a news magazine rather than a newspaper, presenting news more concisely, adding more feature stories, segregating the classified ads in the "blushing pink pages," seeking a wider advertising base, and taking an active role in national gay social and political issues.

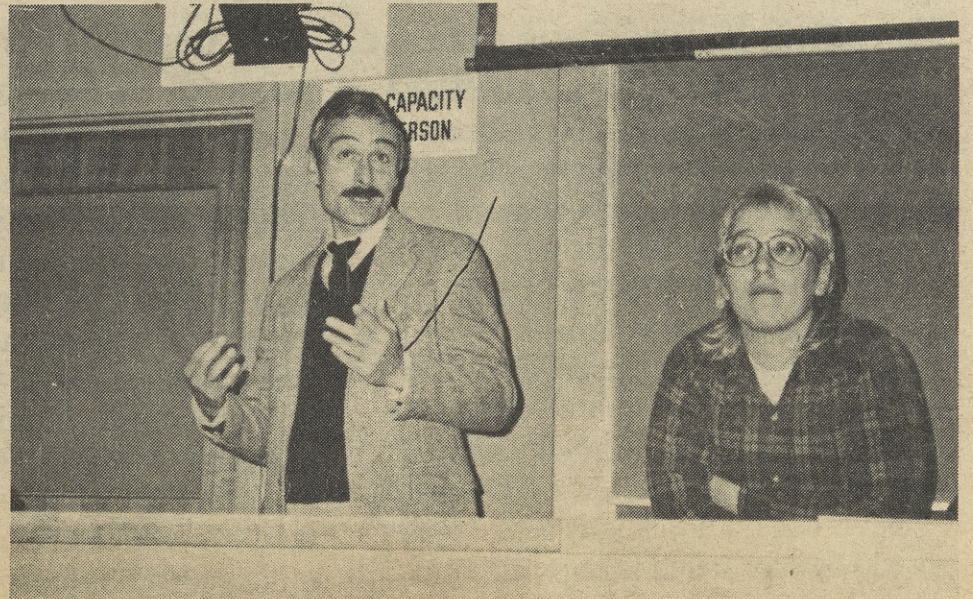
McQueen asserted that many of the accomplishments of The Advocate have been "a boon to all gay publications." He cited its success as a gay business in terms that non-gay businesses respect, its success in signing major non-gay advertisers such as liquor companies, and its professional acceptance, exemplified by its listing in the Standard Rate and Data Guide (a sort of advertisers' "bible").

But McQueen claimed that The Advocate's biggest contribution has been its role in "developing the talent pool for gay publications."

It pays all contributors, a step he said is essential in improving the gay press. "It is the only way we can entice gay professionals, especially those working for non-gay publications, to work for gay publications."

Pat Califia concentrated on the importance of the gay press. She

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Star Photo By Tim Warford

Robert McQueen, Editor, and Pat Califia, San Francisco Editor, provided many insights into The Advocate and other gay publications in their recent CSUS lecture.

## Feinstein Vetoes Benefits Law For Domestic Partners

San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein vetoed a proposal to extend health benefits to unmarried live-in lovers of city workers but vowed December 9 to work with gay leaders to draft a more acceptable measure, according to an Associated Press report.

"In providing benefits to some, the ordinance denies them to others because they are related. This is inequitable, and it is therefore unacceptable to me," Feinstein told a news conference at her city hall office.

"Let's say you're a city employee and you support an invalid brother. That brother doesn't have access to the system," she said. "I happen to believe the health insurance system should have to accept (all) dependents."

About 300 members of San Francisco's gay community held a protest at 5 p.m. on the steps of city hall. They accused Mayor Dianne Feinstein of capitulating to the Catholic Church in vetoing the ordinance.

The speakers were especially critical of Archbishop John R. Quinn, who had urged the mayor to veto the proposal, calling it a "radical repudiation of fundamental values and institutions."

After the veto, Quinn downplayed his involvement. "I raised a moral voice when there was none. I saw it as my role and responsibility to speak for the traditional values of the family and marriage in church and society."

Asked about Quinn's influence, Feinstein said she respected him but added, "No moral statement had any overwhelming sway with me."

Locally, Dignity/Sacramento voted

Dec. 12 to send a letter to Archbishop Quinn protesting his anti-gay stand on the ordinance.

Randy Stallings of the Coalition for Human Rights was one of several speakers at the rally to urge gay voters to oppose the mayor if she runs for re-election in 1984. The crowd responded with chants of "Dump Dianne."

"Now she tells us that the heterosexual majority that forbids us the right to marry (says) we're irresponsible for not marrying. It's a Catch-22 that we're sick of hearing in our lives," Stallings said.

Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver urged an intense lobbying effort with the Board of Supervisors to override Ms. Feinstein's veto.

Paul Boneberg, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, said the mayor's action was "an attack on all gay men and lesbians who had dreams of being legitimate within the society."

The Rev. Miles Riley, director of information for the Catholic archdiocese, said the church won't be "getting involved in lobbying or anything like that," if there is a bid to override the veto.

"There is a moral perspective here," he said. "The precedent of a passing relationship being equated with marriage is simply unacceptable and unhelpful."

"She's an enemy of gay people," said Scott Smith, the former lover and business partner of assassinated Super-

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Photo Special to The Star

## The Choral Majority

The Sacramento Men's Collective celebrates its fourth anniversary on Friday, December 17, at 8 p.m. with a concert by The Choral Majority and a wine-and-cheese reception at La Semilla, 312 20th Street. Tickets are \$5 at the door.



# An open letter to the gay community on hepatitis B

## Hepatitis B, a serious disease, may be sexually transmitted

Sexually transmitted diseases among the gay community are epidemic. Herpes has recently received a lot of attention; gonorrhea and syphilis are well known; but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued a major recommendation for the prevention of another sexually transmitted disease: Hepatitis B. In their *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC stated: "Susceptible homosexually active males should be vaccinated [against hepatitis B] regardless of their age or duration of their homosexual practices."

## Gay men are at a high risk of contracting hepatitis B

In one study, from 51% to 76% of 3,816 gay men seen in five sexually transmitted disease clinics had evidence of past or present hepatitis B infection. Once infected, there's a 6% to 10% chance of becoming a carrier—capable of passing on the virus. The CDC estimated there are nearly 1 million carriers in the United States and that 100,000 of these carriers are gay men.

## The hepatitis B virus can be passed on by contact with contaminated body fluids

such as saliva, urine, semen, and blood. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through tiny breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes. This can occur during intimate sexual contact and can lead to hepatitis B for the partner of an infected person. Although most patients recover and over half contracting hepatitis B do not get symptoms, there is no specific treatment and no known cure for hepatitis B infections.

## Hepatitis B may lead to even more serious complications

For those who do get symptoms of hepatitis B, a mild or severe "flu-like" sickness may continue for weeks or months. Ten percent of all infections become long lasting (chronic) with potential complications that are sometimes more serious than those of other sexually transmitted diseases. The serious complications include the chronic carrier state, chronic active hepatitis, chronic persistent hepatitis, cirrhosis, and even cancer of the liver. Every year almost 4,000 carriers die of cirrhosis. In addition, carriers have a risk 273 times greater than that of the general population of contracting a usually fatal form of liver cancer.

## Now this serious sexually transmitted disease is usually preventable by vaccination with the new hepatitis B vaccine

After more than a decade of research and development, a new vaccine is available for prevention, *not treatment*, of hepatitis B. In clinical studies, the vaccine was highly effective in preventing hepatitis B infection and was generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions occurred in these studies.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first. To be effective, the vaccine must be given before a person gets hepatitis B. The vaccine helps prevent the disease: It is *not effective as a treatment*. We suggest that you consult your doctor to determine if you should be vaccinated.

**For more information  
about hepatitis B and the  
vaccine to prevent it, contact  
your doctor, clinic, or the  
American Liver Founda-  
tion. 998 Pompton Avenue,  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009  
(201) 857-2626.**

This message is brought to you as a public service by  
The American Liver Foundation

### Why you should consult your doctor or clinic

The vaccine helps protect against infection caused by hepatitis B virus. This virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not

protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

No serious adverse reactions were reported in over 6,000 individuals receiving the vaccine in clinical trials. The most frequent reaction was soreness at the point of injection; less common local reactions included redness, swelling, warmth, or formation of a hard, lumplike spot. The local effects were usually mild and lasted no more than 2 days after vaccination. Occasionally, low-grade fever (less than 101 °F) occurred. When it did, it usually lasted no longer than 48 hours following vaccination. In

rare cases, fever over 102 °F was reported.

More generalized complaints including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle pain, and joint pain were reported infrequently. Rash was reported rarely. As with any vaccine, broad use may reveal additional adverse reactions.

Your doctor or clinic knows what special care must be taken when administering the vaccine and in determining who should receive the vaccine. The vaccine is not intended for persons who are allergic to any of its components.



# OPINION

## The Gay Press: Strong But Fragile

In their recent lecture in Sacramento, Robert McQueen and Pat Califia of The Advocate spoke about the importance and the fragility of the gay press. Of course, to the staff of a newspaper attempting to serve the lesbian and gay community, their comments hit very close to home.

They identified three essential functions of the gay press:

1. To inform people and bring them together.
2. To represent lesbian and gay people to the non-gay world.
3. To preserve the historical record of our community.

Pat Califia outlined several require-

ments necessary for the continued survival of the gay press. Among them:

1. Increased professionalism, including payment for contributors and staff and adherence to professional journalistic standards.
2. Diversification into other media than print, such as cable TV.
3. Centralization of resources and solidarity among men and women.
4. Financial security, to ensure continuity, independence, and the achievement of all other goals.

These points are especially relevant to Sacramento, which, with four gay publications, may hold some kind of

national record, at least for cities this size.

The questions arise—is the community capable and willing to support four publications? Does competition stimulate quality? How well have the publications fulfilled the functions of the gay press and met the conditions for survival? How well have the publications defined their audiences? How well have they defined themselves and sold themselves to those audiences?

These are questions that the community must answer, either in words or in actions. Pat Califia also accused the gay press of talking too much to itself, which is what we would be doing if we answered those questions ourselves. We know what we are trying to do; it is up to you to let us know how well we succeed.

How can you tell us—The Star in particular and all the gay publications of Sacramento in general—the answers to the questions? There are a number of ways.

First, by reading our papers. If you pick them up and read them—and if you find something of value in them—we get a sense of at least going in the right direction.

Second, by communicating directly with us if we print something you like or dislike, if we omit something you think is important, if you have some skill or knowledge you'd like to share. Write us, call us, stop us on the street or in a bar or at a meeting.

Third, by contributing your time and talent. A contribution to The Star is a contribution to the community. Write articles, shoot photographs, sell advertising, distribute papers. You not

only give; you also receive. You get experience, perhaps a bit of glory, a lot of satisfaction, and even possibly some financial recompense.

Fourth, contribute financially. Free newspapers depend on advertising to keep going. A paper like The Star reaches a well-defined audience. And this is an audience that, experience shows, repays advertisers' investments by patronizing businesses and services that indicate an interest in getting their patronage. The more often your business' name reaches the public, the more impressed and receptive the public becomes—they recognize that name as part of the community.

In the newspaper business, as in any business, money is the bottom line. It is the key to the increased professionalism Pat Califia and others say is essential. It is the key to simple survival, to the mere fact of continuing to serve the community.

On its part, a newspaper strives to reach the goals of professionalism and to serve and represent the community in the best possible manner. If it does this, it deserves the community's support so that it can continue to do its job.

As we near the end of 1982, after 15 issues of The Sacramento Star, we thank you for your support and we renew our pledge to produce a professional-quality newspaper for the entire gay and lesbian community of the Sacramento area.

We ask you to hold us to that, to communicate with us, to contribute to the community, and to continue to support our efforts.\*

## Lesbian/Gay Anthropologists Set Meeting In Sacramento For May 6-7, Seek Papers

The Anthropological Research Group on Homosexuality (ARGOH) will hold a conference May 6-7, 1983, at California State University, Sacramento. The Sacramento Anthropological Society will host the conference.

Teachers, researchers, and students in anthropology and related disciplines are invited to submit proposals for papers dealing with the social, political, and research aspects of the study of lesbianism and homosexuality. Pa-

pers may deal with the Western World, the Third World, or indigenous peoples.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper, organizing a panel, or reporting on work in progress should submit a 100-word abstract by March 1, 1983, to Dr. L. Heidecker, ARGOH Conference, Department of Anthropology, CSUS, 6000 J Street, Sacramento 95819.

For further information on the conference, contact Heidecker at the above address.\*

## MCC Deacons Need Your Help In Filling Christmas Food Baskets For The Needy

Donations for Christmas Baskets to be distributed to families and single persons in need are being sought by the deacons of River City Metropolitan Community Church.

Following a ten year tradition, the deacons are putting together baskets containing food, toys and clothing to ensure a merry Christmas for those members of the community who are having extreme difficulties.

Especially needed are toys for small boys and girls, as well as special items for infants. Gift certificates from clothing

stores help to outfit children in appropriate sizes.

Canned foods of all types are being sought. Hams and meat meals in cans can provide solid nourishing food for families who otherwise face a very bare Christmas.

All donations are tax-deductible. Donations, and also names and addresses of persons who would benefit from receiving a Christmas basket, should be given to the deacons at MCC, 2741 34th Street. Phone 454-4762.\*

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## Conference Jan. 8 On AIDS—Implications For Lifestyles

### Editor:

On Saturday, January 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sutter General Hospital Auditorium (28th and L Streets), Dr. Harvey Thompson and I will be hosting an open public discussion about the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome—AIDS, the "gay pneumonia," the "gay skin cancer."

With us will be a set of guest panelists: Dr. Marty Rogers, a local psychotherapist; Cleve Jones, head of the Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation in San Francisco; Tom Kelter, M.D., an epidemiologist who works through the Public Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control from Atlanta, Georgia; and Jeff Richards, a San Francisco-based representative of the National Gay Health Task Force (NGHTF). They will be present to answer any questions from the audience.

This conference is planned to be primarily non-medical; the latest developments in the understanding of this disease will be presented, followed by a lengthy question-and-answer discussion of the implications of these findings. Hence the name of the conference, "AIDS—Implications for Lifestyle."

Similar conferences have now been held in San Francisco under the auspices of UCSF. Given the growing number of cases of AIDS and its associated "gay lymph node syndrome," it is incumbent that a similar conference be held here in Sacramento.

I want to emphasize once again that

the conference is planned to be primarily non-medical and non-technical. It will be an open-ended discussion with the hosts and guest panelists.

There will be no admission charge for the conference. This is because of the good graces of many members of our own "community," namely, the River City Business Association (RCBA); the owners of the following local watering holes—The Wreck Room, Club 21, The Power Plant, and the Broadway Ltd.; and the following organizations—the Valley Knights Motorcycle Club, River City Metropolitan Community Church, and the Great Northern Imperial Empire (GNIE).

Any extra funds from these groups will be donated to the Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation, and should any people attending the conference be so inclined, donations to the Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation will be accepted graciously and with open arms. (For more about funding, see my article in the December 1 issue of The Sacramento Star, volume 1, number 14.)

SANDY POMERANTZ, M.D.

## Letters Welcome

The Star welcomes letters and comments from readers. Please keep your letters brief and to the point. Typewritten letters are given preference. All letters must be signed with the writer's true name, address, and telephone number, which will be withheld from publication if requested.\*



# Gay Man Is Cleared To Adopt Non-Gay Son

A 29-year-old Riverside man's bid to adopt his 17-year-old foster son got a nod of approval Dec. 9 from Riverside County social service officials, The Associated Press reported.

The recommendation from the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services is not final approval, which must come from a judge. But David Frater said it a big step in his attempt to

adopt Kevin Frater, a high school senior who has lived with him for two years.

"I'm really happy. I'm glad that I have a father now," Kevin, who is heterosexual, said Thursday. "I knew that we were going to win all along."

The social services department had previously refused to endorse or oppose the adoption "because it was afraid of

setting the precedent of allowing an openly homosexual person to adopt a child," said Frater's Los Angeles attorney, Gloria Allred. "They engaged in a course of delay, footdragging and stonewalling to prevent the adoption."

Joyce Manuelis Reikes, a deputy county counsel representing the department, declined all comment on grounds adoption matters are confidential, except to confirm that papers were filed Thursday morning endorsing the adoption.

Although a judge makes the final determination on adoptions, the department usually makes a recommendation to the court, Allred said. Although no court date has been set for final approval, she said "we foresee no difficulty now that they (county officials) have recommended the adoption."

Frater said the county's last-minute endorsement of Kevin's adoption "comes down to the fact that prejudice cannot be supported by the law."

"It's our belief that homosexuals should have the same right to adopt as heterosexual single adults do," Allred said. "There are thousands of children who are waiting for adoption, and it's unfair to deny these children the right to a caring and nurturing parental relationship solely because of the adopting adult's sexual preference."

Kevin took his foster father's last name in November 1980, five months after he had been placed in Frater's home by county officials, who apparently did not know at the time that Frater was gay.

A senior at North High School in

Riverside, Kevin said he was taken away from his mother when he was 3 because of her drinking and other problems.

Kevin spent about 12 years in 15 foster homes until the county placed him with Frater at the age of 15, Allred said. At first the placement was classified as "emergency protective care," but changed to "adoptive placement" status in November 1980.

Kevin said none of the other foster parents worked out "because they weren't the right parents for me."

Frater, a systems analyst with Management Assistance Inc., said he told Kevin about his homosexuality when the youth first entered the home, and that "it didn't bother him at all."

But Frater said an anonymous tip from a school official informed county officials that he was gay. The county then forced him and Kevin to undergo counseling, but the counselor found that their relationship was normal, Frater said.

After two years of delay, the county sent Frater a letter refusing to make any recommendation for or against the adoption — even though no effort was made to remove Kevin from the home, said Allred.

She filed a writ to force the county approve the adoption on Nov. 23, and on Dec. 6 filed an adoption petition, she said. A hearing on the issue had been scheduled Dec. 9 before Superior Court Judge Robert J. Timlin when social services officials filed a consent to the adoption.

"We feel terrific. We feel fine. It's a relief," Frater said after emerging from the courtroom.\*

## Psychologist Says Fatherless Boys More Likely To Be Gay

A psychologist told the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Montreal recently that boys raised in single-parent households experiment more with homosexual behavior than do those raised by both biological parents, according to a report in USA TODAY.

Philip A. Belcastro, of Southern Illinois University, studied 412 freshman-to-senior male SIU students. All were white, he said, because there were not enough blacks in the pool of subjects.

Belcastro's study is one of the first to examine a wide range of sexual activity in a large number of young adults. He said that his findings apply only to

college-age white males and do not mean that such behavior is permanent.

The psychologist was quick to point out that his study examined only behaviors, not quality of relationships, and that such studies are only in the development stage.

"It's just that males are more likely to experiment with homosexual behavior," he said. "Definitive conclusions cannot yet be drawn."

The number of single-parent families in the United States has nearly doubled in the last decade. In 1980, the Census Bureau found 6.4 million single-parent households. In 1970, such households numbered 3.3 million.\*

## MCC Begins Group For Kids Of Gays

Young people aged eight to eighteen are holding special rap groups on Sundays following church services at River City Metropolitan Community Church.

"More and more gay parents are bringing their children to our services since we instituted a full program of children's sermons, Sunday School, and special events," reported Pastor Freda Smith. "Therefore, we felt there was a need for young people to get together and discuss what it means to be children

growing up in gay homes."

Rap groups are being led by a young couple, Leta and Ron, who have known first-hand the experience of growing up in a gay home.

Attendance has been averaging between ten and fifteen young people at every service recently. Sunday morning services are at 11 a.m. every Sunday at MCC, 2741 34th Street (34th and Broadway), with the young people's rap following immediately in the North Hall of the church building. Everyone is welcome. For information call 454-4762.

## AIDS: IMPLICATIONS FOR LIFESTYLES

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## Transmitted In Blood?

# AIDS Symptoms Found In Baby Who Got Transfusions

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) has struck two children suffering from hemophilia and may be linked to illnesses in 20 other children, The Associated Press reported Dec. 10.

Researchers' findings prompted a warning by health officials that hemophiliac youngsters, who often must undergo frequent blood transfusions, are at risk for the disease. Scientists believe the syndrome may be passed through transfusions.

The national Centers for Disease Control said that one of the children suspected of having Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a 20-month-old boy who had received a series of blood transfusions from a man who was later reported to have the syndrome.

Until Thursday, only three cases of the disease, called Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, had been reported among hemophiliacs.

The syndrome, a mysterious breakdown of the body's natural immune system, allows rare "opportunistic" infections to attack the body. Almost 800 cases have been reported by the CDC. AIDS is between 20 percent and 70 percent fatal, depending on the infection involved.

The 20-month-old boy, born to healthy parents in San Francisco on March 3, 1981, is the youngest person yet linked to

the syndrome. The child, who is not a hemophiliac, received blood products from 19 donors after his birth. Within seven months he began to show immunodeficient illnesses.

It was later discovered that a donor, at the time an apparently healthy 48-year-old man, showed symptoms consistent with opportunistic infections eight months after giving blood. The man was confirmed to have pneumocystis carinii pneumonia — frequently associated with AIDS — and died in August.

The occurrence of AIDS in gay men, drug abusers and people with hemophilia A suggests that it may be "caused by an infectious agent transmitted sexually or through exposure to blood or blood products," the CDC said.

If the child's illness is confirmed as the syndrome, the fact that he received blood from a syndrome victim "adds support to the infectious-agent hypothesis," the CDC said in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

The infant's case "is important in that it tends to confirm some leads that we had from other investigations," said Dr. Harold Jaffe, an epidemiologist with the CDC's special task force on the syndrome.

"One, it says the incubation period for this disease may be relatively long, and two, it says that people who are

developing the disease but are not yet sick may be capable of transmitting it," he said.

Jaffe said researchers are being cautious about proclaiming the child a victim of the syndrome because "we don't know what AIDS in kids looks like, and we see several congenital immunodeficient illnesses in children."

Jaffe said the CDC is "looking at" the cases of about 20 other children — most of them in New York, New Jersey and California — which may be linked to AIDS. These are "young children with unexplained immunodeficiencies who have not received blood," he said.

He added that the CDC is working with physicians and public health departments in those states and hopes to prepare a report on the cases for this week's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

In the new hemophilia A cases, the CDC said it found "no suggestion that

disease could have been acquired through contact with ... groups at increased risk for AIDS." Two of the five patients have died, as did the first three reported hemophilia patients with the syndrome.

Meanwhile, two reports published in the Dec. 10 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association said AIDS victims are particularly susceptible to diseases of the nervous system like encephalitis and meningitis.

The diseases can be caused by a cytomegalovirus, leading to speculation that the virus might be a precursor to AIDS, one report said.

The second report, based on studies at UCLA, said five gay men with the syndrome were found to have infections caused by mycobacterium avium-intracellulare, an organism that commonly produces infections in chickens and pigs but rarely in humans.

AIDS has already been linked to a form of pneumonia and Kaposi's sarcoma \*

## Sacramento Urban League Sponsors On The Job Training Program

The Sacramento Urban League has signed a \$350,000 contract with the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency to continue its On The Job Training program for 1982-83. Program funds and guidelines are furnished by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Says David Martinez, Executive Director of SETA, "I want to encourage Sacramento area employers to utilize the OJT program run by the Sacramento Urban League. It is a valuable source of manpower."

The OJT contract requires that one hundred and ten CETA eligible applicants, seeking employment in "demand occupations," be assessed, placed and monitored in job training with private industry to facilitate permanent and unsubsidized employment. Fifty percent

of base salary during training of eight to forty-four weeks will be reimbursed to employers. Starting wage must be at least one dollar above minimum wage.

Demand occupations, found predominantly in the computer and electronics industries, include computer and key data entry operators, programmers, word processors, legal secretaries, account clerks, machinists, and truck drivers — just to name a few.

SUL Manpower Director Melvin Mitchell reports that of the seventy-plus percent of last year's applicants successfully completing training, about eighty-five percent found permanent employment as a direct result of the program. Mitchell notes that trainees often possess a credible work history, good skills and are seeking more than a stop-gap job.

George Dean, President of the SUL, would like to see the private sector more familiar with the program. Although the Urban League was born out of response to acute minority needs, its sphere has broadened, as new quarters of the community have required advocacy. The SUL has operated the OJT program for the community at large since 1973, and last year was evaluated by SETA as the top OJT operator in the Sacramento area.

For further information contact Melvin Mitchell at 916/739-0627.\*

# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM

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# BOOKS

## Exterminator Is Good For Literary Masochists

"The Rose Exterminator" by William Carney. Everest House Publishers Hardcover, 317 pages, \$14.95.

Reviewed by RICK VANDYKE

The Rose Exterminator is a murder mystery centering on the mysterious and gruesome death of Dr. Glenn Symonds in a seedy trailer park near San Diego in the mid-1960's. The protagonist-investigator-narrator is his former lover.

Adding spice and complexity is Symonds's double life. He was the top Beverly Hills plastic surgeon of the day, rebuilder of stars and socialites, and he was also the top S&M master (forgive the bad pun) of that sub-culture in the gay world of Southern California, back then before what the author likes to call "The Great Awakening."

By now, if you like murder mysteries or have an interest in the S&M scene, your curiosity has probably been aroused. Let me rudely dash it: The Rose Exterminator is a seriously flawed book. It is too slow and ponderous to be a good murder mystery, and too circumspect and lacking in concrete details to be a good S&M treatise. Unless perhaps it is sadistically aimed at literary masochists.

By literary masochists I mean people who get off on very bad prose. The Rose Exterminator should have them in ecstasy after about two paragraphs. This book needed the discipline of a severe editor.

What's wrong with it? An arcane vocabulary, replete with such esoteric words as "posthetomist" (not in my dictionary) and "mollescent" (ditto), and such polysyllabic phrases as "narcotomatus crash" and "nocuous expostulations." As you may have gathered, more than a few such locutions make a novel very difficult to read.

But there's more. Carney often employs a tortured, obfuscatory syntax that is reminiscent of the meandering logorrhea that affected Henry James in his later years. The difference is that Henry James was an acknowledged master of the language, and there was always a certain grace to his complex prose, with real meaning inherent in it.

## 'Blue Book Of Etiquette' A Mistake; Author Should Have Listened To Mom

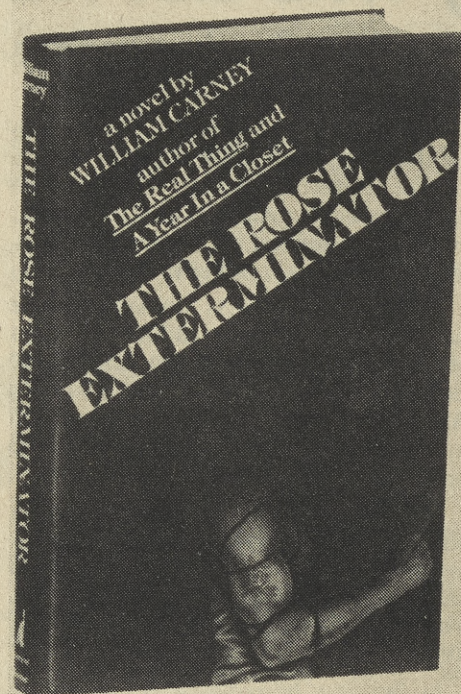
The Joyful Blue Book of Gracious Gay Etiquette by Daniel Curzon.

IGNA (San Francisco) paperback, \$4.95.

Reviewed by RICK RUMAN

Didn't Daniel Curzon's mother ever tell him, "If you don't have anything to say, don't say anything without wit, style, good word usage and exceptional grammar?" Apparently she didn't; or, maybe she did and he just didn't listen. Otherwise, he never would have written The Joyful Blue Book.

Curzon has taken all of the tired faggot jokes, all of the gay stereotypes, and presented them in the same tired fashion in which they have been presented for the last 20 or 30 years. Throughout the book he asks questions like, "Do clothes



With Carney, it seems simply to be muddying the waters to make them seem deep. Alas, they don't even seem deep, just turbid.

Here are two examples (and the book is full of such writing):

"I knew from the start the way to finger out the secret, mollescent susceptibility that was his deepest concern to hide and his greatest pleasure to have quickened."

"Together they learned from each other over a period of months those things heretofore unknown to either but secretly germinated as variant potentials of the same leaning within them, leanings which had awaited only the quickening light of experience to be realized in practice."

If you think those two sentences are about sex, you're right. But mostly the book is not about sex, not in any erotic sense. It is possibly about morality — at least the ending tries to suffuse what has transpired with a moral cast — but I don't find it very convincing.

Aside from its appeal to literary masochism, The Rose Exterminator has a certain interest for its story and its approach to the narration of the unraveling of the mystery. It does get graphic, both physically and psychologically, and it is probably not for the totally naive. Nor is it for those who cannot suspend their moral and/or political judgments about the S&M scene.★

make the man?" and provides answers like, "Well, it depends on the kind of man you want to make." Or, "What do you give the man who has everything? A WaterPik with a catheter." But seriously, I kid you not, these are the jokes.

The tedium of such half-witticisms is occasionally broken by pseudo-Victorian engravings and drawings done in the style of the fellow who illustrated my seventh grade English textbook.

The book has such a slap-dash, half-thought-out quality to it that I can only assume that Curzon, a victim of Reaganomics, wrote it only for the money, however little, he might make from it. In better times Curzon could have gotten a job selling used cars, quietly collected his check, and spared us all from suffering The Joyful Blue Book.★

## 'Further Tales' Is Fun, Flat

"Further Tales of The City" by Armistead Maupin. Harper Colophon paperback, 239 pages, \$8.95.

Reviewed by JAMES K. GRAHAM

It seems hard to believe that Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City" serial began running in the San Francisco Chronicle six years ago. They were such a breath of fresh air, such a daily delight, with their witty conversations, their charming characters, their bizarre twists of plot. Then they were put out in book form, and they seemed to lose a little of their luster.

The second series of "Tales" in the Chronicle were a logical extension of the first, tying up loose ends and continuing the lively social satire. And the second book, More Tales of the City, did pretty much the same thing. It was really, one felt, the second half of the story.

But the third series of daily adventures of Mary Ann, Brian, Michael, and Mrs. Madrigal, with heavy doses of DeDe Day and Prue Giroux thrown in, never seemed so lively, so essential, so fulfilling. It all got to be too much, with the disappearing wolfhound, the kidnapped twins, and the mysterious recluse of Golden Gate Park. (Was he really Jim Jones, somehow not dead in Guyana after all?) Not to mention Fr. Paddy in the bushes of Golden Gate Park with Officer Rivera, and Bambi Kanetaka, TV reporter, bound and gagged in the basement.

And the book which collects the third set of tales, Further Tales of The City, also falls rather flat. It's still fun to read, of course — and that was always the main point of the "Tales." But it isn't moving, as the others were, almost in spite of themselves. And somehow Jamestown, tragic as it was, seems more dated than any topical reference in the first and second collections of "Tales of

The City."

There are classic bits in Tales and More Tales; no one should miss them. You could miss Further Tales, but if you're a die-hard Armistead Maupin fan, you probably won't want to.★

## 'Gay Catalog' Puts Store In Mailbox

Lambda Rising bookstore of Washington, D.C. has recently published "The Whole Gay Catalog," a comprehensive, mail-order catalog of books and other merchandise. The catalog is over 100 pages long, with thousands of annotated entries in 26 topic areas.

Lambda Rising is the world's largest gay and lesbian bookstore. Since 1974, it has served a quarter-of-a-million gay and lesbian customers and their friends, offering a complete selection of the best in current gay fiction, gay studies, literature and letters, periodicals, and other merchandise.

According to L. Page Maccubbin, president of Lambda Rising, "The Whole Gay Catalog" brings the resources of the bookstore "as close as your mailbox. We especially want to reach the large number of gay men and lesbians who live beyond easy traveling distance of the country's major urban gay and lesbian bookstores."

In addition to being a mail-order source for practically every book now available dealing with lesbian and gay lifestyles, "The Whole Gay Catalog" is also a valuable reference for making lists of recommended books, discovering what books exist on a subject, and so on.

"The Whole Gay Catalog" may be ordered for \$2 from Lambda Rising, 2012 S Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.★

## Some Suggestions For Beginning

By JAMES K. GRAHAM

Phonograph records are a perennial favorite for Christmas gift-giving. They are easily portable and wrappable (though virtually impossible to disguise). They offer an extremely wide variety, from classics to comedy, from disco to drama, from punk to pop, from new wave to old guard. And, despite rather brutal price increases in the past decade, records remain fairly reasonable in price.

As a lover of classical music and a collector of classical recordings, I am often asked to recommend recordings of certain compositions or to suggest what a person might listen to "to get started."

The problem with such requests is that a great many variables are involved.

First, since new performers are always coming into the field, many compositions have been recorded many times—and many of the recordings are still available.

Second, there are at least three price ranges of classical records—low, middle, and high—which may or may not correspond to the value of the performances found in each range.

Third, some performances are classics in themselves, but are not necessarily the best-sounding, because of

when they were recorded—10, 20, even 30 or 40 years ago.

Fourth, personal taste is extremely important and at the same time extremely difficult to account for. Thus, a performance that one person finds dynamic and exciting, another will find hysterical and exaggerated, and a performance that one listener calls graceful and elegant, another listener will call dull and boring.

What I want to do here is to try to answer the original question by recommending some classical music to start with, while taking into account all of the variables I have mentioned.

As a way of organizing my recommendations, I am going to confine myself to recordings by one conductor, Pierre Monteux. For the last year or so, I have been collecting his recordings because his approach to music is one that I find very satisfying. It is what you could call "classical"—emphasizing clarity, proportion, and fidelity to the composer, rather than imposing the conductor's personality on the music.

Monteux was born in 1875 and died in 1964. He knew Ravel, Debussy, Stravinsky, and other great 20th century composers. In fact, he conducted the first performances of such pieces as "The Rite of Spring" and "Daphnis

and Chloe."

He was the conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and of the London Symphony Orchestra from about 1960 until his death in 1964. He was also a long association with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Because Monteux's recordings are many years old, many of them are available on the priced record label of Gold Seal, London Treasury, and others. These records were recorded in the best of recording technology, and they are clear and balanced. Sonically these recordings are of a quality superior to many modern recordings.

In addition, some of his performances, especially of the French repertoire, have been equaled, but not surpassed. This combination of multiple advantages, excellent sound, and low prices.

So, which should you buy? I should suggest the complete "Daphnis and Chloe."



## Knights' Night Is Spacey

Bikers and extraterrestrials gathered Saturday, Dec. 11 for the Valley Knights' annual Christmas Show at Turn Verein Hall on J Street.

The evening started with a tribute to Sacramento's gay olympians with special honor given to the medalists. Norman Frohwein, the coordinator of the Sacramento team, was presented with a plaque in honor of his achievement in pulling together one of the largest

delegations in the Gay "Olympic" Games.

The evening's talent show was won by Jack Harris and his band. Other acts during the show included Sister Grace with her version of the Christmas story, musicians, singers, dramatic interpretations and female impersonators.

Money raised at the event went to the Aquarian Effort.★



## Winning Classical Record Collectors

and Chloe."

He was the conductor of the Boston Symphony from 1919 to 1924, of the San Francisco Symphony from 1934 to 1953, and of the London Symphony from about 1960 until his death. He also had a long association with the Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam.

Because Monteux died almost 20 years ago, many of his recordings are available on the medium- and lower-priced record labels, like RCA Victrola and Gold Seal, Philips Festivo, and London Treasury. But because most of these records were made with excellent orchestras, at a time when stereo recording technology was already near its peak, and because of Monteux's clear and balanced orchestral sound, sonically these discs are only marginally inferior to much more recent recordings.

In addition, several of his recordings fall into the category of classic performances, ones that have hardly been equaled, much less surpassed. This combination gives the buyer the multiple advantages of great performances, excellent sound, and lower prices.

So, which Monteux recordings should you buy? For starters, there are the classic performances: Ravel's complete "Daphnis and Chloe" ballet

with the London Symphony Orchestra on London Treasury, Franck's Symphony in D Minor with the Chicago Symphony on RCA Red Seal, Stravinsky's "Petrouchka" with the Boston Symphony on RCA Gold Seal, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, the "Eroica," with the Concertgebouw Orchestra on Philips Festivo.

That list already demonstrates the catholicity of Monteux's repertoire, but there are more, none of which I would want to be without: Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 with Julius Katchen and the London Symphony on London Treasury, Strauss' "Death and Transfiguration" and Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll" with the San Francisco Symphony on Victrola, Dvorak's Symphony No. 7 with the London Symphony on London Treasury, Debussy and Ravel pieces including "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun" and "Bolero" on Philips Festivo, and Tchaikovsky's Symphonies 4, 5, and 6 on RCA Gold Seal.

Berlioz' "Symphonie Fantastique" and Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" were Monteux specialties, and he recorded each of them several times. Unfortunately, his most recent recordings are not his best.

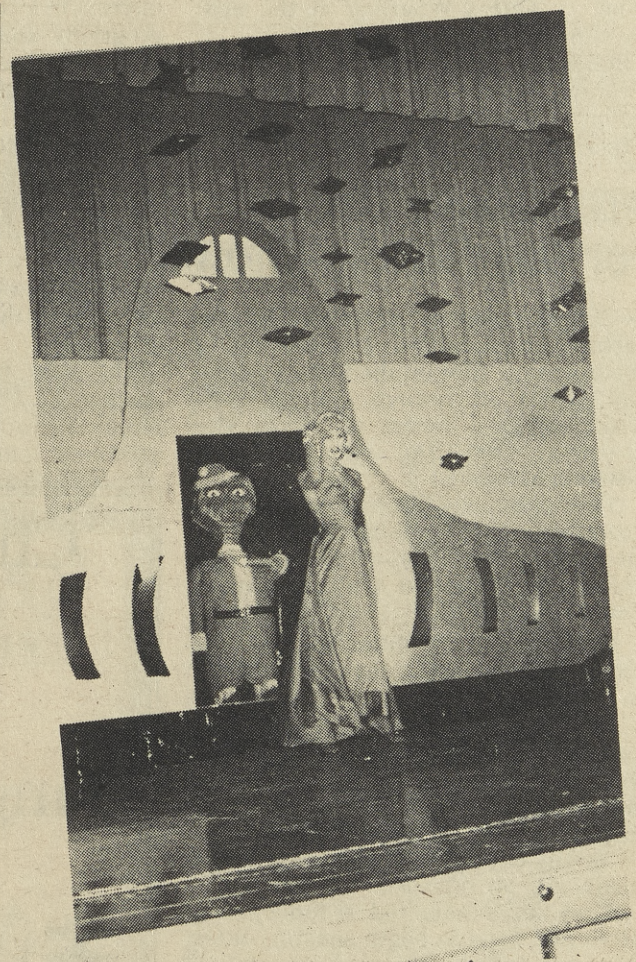
There's a stereo "Rite of Spring" on London Treasury with the Paris Con-

servatoire Orchestra, a notoriously undisciplined group in the late 1950's. Avoid that record and get instead the Boston Symphony recording from the early '50s; it's on an imported French RCA disc. The sound isn't the greatest, but the playing and the interpretation are splendid. And it is a great document by the man who introduced this modern classic to the world.

Similarly, there are two stereo Monteux recordings of the "Symphonie Fantastique," one with the Vienna Philharmonic on London Treasury and one with the Southwest German Radio Philharmonic on Turnabout. Don't buy them; get the San Francisco Symphony recording from the early '50s, also on a French RCA disc.

There's more, too—Sibelius, Beethoven, Brahms, Rimsky-Korsakov, and others. While I would not go so far as to say that you could not go wrong with a Monteux recording, I would say that I don't think you could go far wrong.

Pierre Monteux was one of the very greatest conductors, and we are fortunate to have so many of his fine performances of a remarkably varied repertoire available in good recordings. They almost compose by themselves a basic collection of classical music.★





# FINANCES

## Time Now To Erect Tax Shelters

By MARK WHISLER

In this first of my columns for 1983 I will discuss what you can do before December 31, 1982, that will help you on your 1982 tax return.

In future articles I intend to write about the tax consequences of two unrelated individuals owning property together, financial planning, the effects of the new tax laws on tip withholding, special tax breaks for school teachers and professionals, income averaging, and real estate.

In addition, if you would like to have any specific questions answered in this column, please send them to me in care of The Sacramento Star.

Here are some end-of-the-year tax tips. As always, each tax situation is unique, so consultation with your tax preparer is a must in assessing your own individual needs.

1. If you can, pay the second property tax installment before December 31, 1982, as this year's tax rate is higher than next year's.

2. If line 34 on your federal tax return form 1040 was \$20,000 (single), \$30,000 (married), or higher in 1981, you should seriously consider putting up to \$2000 per working person in an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Especially consider this if you are over 50 or may be out of work in the next 10 years. You have until April 15, 1983, to make

your deposit for 1982, so this decision could wait until your return is prepared.

3. If you file a Schedule C—Profit or Loss from a Business or Profession, consider making your purchase/payments before December 31, especially major purchases, as this year's tax rate is higher than next year's. Depreciable items purchased by December 31 will get half a year of accelerated depreciation. The Investment Credit, in most cases, will be more beneficial this year.

4. Energy saving devices, including solar water heating equipment, will in most cases be more beneficial in 1982 than in 1983.

5. Medical deductions, if you itemize, will be more valuable in 1982, so if you can pay your medical bills before the end of the year it should be advantageous to do so.

\*\*\*

Mark Whisler is the owner of Mark Whisler and Associates, a tax preparation firm doing business in California since 1975. He has a B.A., with honors, from the University of California, Berkeley. As one of the founding members of the River City Business Association, he served on its Board for three years, and as its Treasurer for two of those years. He is active in real estate property syndication and is currently teaching a class in tax law. \*

## OCU Will Alter Tactics, Offer Services

The Board of Directors of Our Community United recently decided to pursue two possible courses of action towards the development of a community center.

The board authorized its Site Committee to continue its search for a small office space capable of housing the group's first project, a central information and communications office. To date, several options are open, including the possible use of space at the offices of Mom ... Guess What! or at the new Women's Center downtown.

Reflecting upon what it called the "relative apathy" for a community center in Sacramento, the board also authorized its president, Philip Hoskins,

to meet with officials of La Semilla to explore with them the possibility of OCU hiring a staff person to organize its activities and fund raising programs. La Semilla has taken many of the same steps that OCU has begun in establishing itself and its center for political activist organizations in Sacramento.

The Board felt that additional information may help determine whether it should launch a program of its own in an attempt to coalesce the gay community's interest in a community center. Various programs and activities, such as lectures, movies, and other programs of interest to the community could be operated as means of funding the center.

The Board also expressed its appreciation, especially to the Great Northwest Imperial Empire for its fund raising support to date. No additional such activities are planned until the OCU board is ready to present a plan of activities to the community and ask for its support.

The next OCU meeting is set for January 17, 1983 at 7:30 p.m. at 1813 K Street, Sacramento. Phone 443-5596 for additional information. \*

## PBS Grants Bucks For Gay History Show

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has granted \$130,000 for a documentary film on the history of the gay rights movement before 1969. According to a recent article in The Advocate, the film will be called "Before Stonewall."

The grant to filmmakers Robbie Rosenberg and Greta Schiller marks the first time that public television has financially supported a major project concerning gay and lesbian issues.

Rosenberg and Schiller are working with numerous historians and scholars on the project.

Although the filmmakers have also received financial assistance from the National Community Funds and a few individual contributors, the terms of their CPB grant require them to raise an additional \$90,000 before the grant funds will be released.

They have mounted a fundraising drive and hope to begin shooting later this year with a projected completion date next fall.

Tax deductible contributions to "Before Stonewall" can be sent to Middlemarch Films, 1619 Broadway, Ninth Floor, New York, NY 10019. \*

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## Locals Organize To Push For AB1

By TIM WARFORD

California state Assemblyman Art Agnos, D-San Francisco, has introduced legislation to ban discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

The gay employment rights bill, designated AB1 for the 1983-84 legislative session, is essentially the same bill that has been defeated three times since 1976.

Despite the three defeats, Agnos sees the previous attempts to pass the bill as "an extremely valuable process of education."

Agnos stated, "Members of the Legislature have learned, often reluctantly, of the aspirations of the gay and lesbian communities, as well as the devastating effects of anti-gay prejudice on individual lesbians and gay men."

The assemblyman points out three significant developments that should make the bill's passage easier than in previous years.

- Wisconsin has a new law, signed by a Republican governor, that prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation.
- Major religious and labor organizations have announced their support for legislation barring discrimination against lesbians and gays.
- Gay and lesbian political organizations in California are better fi-

nanced and more active in local politics than ever before.

Even though these developments should mean AB1 should have a better chance for passage than in previous years, Agnos says he needs local support if the measure is to pass.

"If AB1 is to become law in 1983, an enormous amount of work must be accomplished in a very short period of time. California Human Rights Advocates, the gay/lesbian lobby in Sacramento, has been closed for over a year, leaving us with no organization to coordinate the many tasks before us. Consequently, I must rely on local groups throughout the state to take responsibility for building the campaign to pass AB1."

Locally, a group of concerned gay men and lesbians has started meeting to organize support of the measure in Sacramento and surrounding areas.

The group's first task is a postcard drive to show legislators the amount of support the bill has.

Volunteers will ask members of various organizations to fill out cards with the phrase "I support AB1 and I vote."

A similar effort will be made at the local gay bars. The group hopes to get more than 5000 cards in support of AB1 from the greater Sacramento area.

People wishing to help with the postcard project or who want cards to sign and send in should contact Doug McEfee at 927-6524. \*

## Advocate Editors Say Support Gay Press

From Page 1

described the intense anti-gay persecutions of the 1950's, and ascribed their success to the lack of a gay information network such as now is provided by the gay press.

But, she warned, the gay press is fragile. "It is dramatically underfunded. This means that we are very vulnerable—fighting one little lawsuit can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. And the new technology is just not available to us."

Censorship is still a problem. In many places, publications can be barred from distribution because of writing or graphics accused of being pornographic. This makes compro-

mises necessary, just so the papers can reach the people.

And, Califia said, this proves that sex is really the main issue. It is why personal ads and information about sexual minorities and restrictive legislation are so important. "Until we can get people together to get sex, to get lovers, to get tricks, to get friends, we don't have a community."

She concluded with a list of goals for the gay press, including more investigative reporting, solidarity and cooperation for best use of limited resources, a national lesbian newsmagazine, taking advantage of other media such as cable TV, and above all increased professionalism. \*

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# Fired Lesbian Editor Sues For \$1 Million

An editor and reporter who is an acknowledged lesbian has filed a \$1 million suit in Boston claiming she was fired from the Christian Science Monitor because of her views on homosexuality. The Associated Press reported Dec. 2.

Christine Madsen, who worked for the newspaper seven years, filed suit in Suffolk Superior Court on Wednesday against officials of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and the newspaper, published by the church.

Madsen seeks \$1 million in damages from The Christian Science Publishing Society and reinstatement.

"I was told that I was being fired because of my views on homosexuality," she told a news conference.

She said she was discharged without benefit of a grievance procedure or a

chance to face her accusers when she refused to change her behavior.

The suit claims the newspaper discriminated against her and violated her constitutional rights. It charges the defendants with violation of privacy, defamation of character and bad faith termination.

Madsen, 31, of Watertown, began at the newspaper as a copy girl in 1974. She was a \$21,000-a-year special editions editor when she was fired on Jan. 4. She said she could not find a comparable job and now works as a \$5-an-hour typesetter in Watertown.

"I knew I was a lesbian before I joined the Christian Science Church (in 1972), but I never felt there was a conflict because the church incorporates many of the most broadminded views," she said.

Her lawyer, Katherine Triantafillou,

said Madsen remains a practicing Christian Scientist.

Officials of the church declined to comment on the suit, but Allison W. Phinney, manager of the Committee on Publication, released a position paper about homosexuality.

"Someone who is living a gay lifestyle doesn't usually agree with the church's position that homosexuality calls for healing," he wrote. "So it doesn't make sense for a gay person to work at the church, because they don't agree with the church's religious position on this subject."

Madsen said her sexual preference never affected her work and that she was not questioned about her personal life until the time of her discharge.

She said she was dismissed a few weeks after supervisors asked her about

a rumor she propositioned "a manager's wife" and asked the woman to attend a meeting on gay issues.

Triantafillou said that after her client told her superiors she was a lesbian, she was told her admission was more damaging than the allegations.

"What we want to do is have the court say that you can't fire a lesbian for being a lesbian," the lawyer said.

She said the suit raises complicated questions of separation of church and state, whether a church employee comes under jurisdiction of the state.

A few weeks before Madsen was dismissed, James Ogan was fired as a cost analyst for the church because of homosexuality. Church spokesman Robert Nelson said Ogan also has sued the church. \*



Star File Photo

## Angel Fox At Parking Lot

Angel Fox plays hot music at The Parking Lot, 2804 Auburn Blvd., Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and the evening of New Year's Day. The Whalin Black Band, Becky Walker, and a D.J. join in for the New Year's Eve festivities.

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## Lawyer Offers Couples Service Package

Attorney Phil Hoskins has announced the "Lovers Knot," "an innovative package of legal documents for unmarried couples who wish to complete their commitment to each other."

Included is a will, a durable power of attorney, and a couples agreement which together provide much of the same protections afforded legally married couples under California state law.

"Most couples avoid facing the realities of life around them and fail to protect each other from economic disaster and legal hassles," Hoskins said.

The "Lovers Knot" makes these protections available and easily obtainable at a relatively low cost. Hoskins will also team up with Counselor Dan Rudd to provide weekend workshops for couples designed to provide them the legal protections of the "Lovers Knot" as well as the emotional advantages of professional counseling while working out legal and non-legal agreements. The workshops, which will begin in January, will help reduce the cost to those couples who choose to develop their agreements in a

small group setting.

Additional information about the "Lovers Knot" and the coming weekend workshops can be obtained from Phil Hoskins at 444-9939. \*

## Blue Mango Cafe Feeds Body & Soul

The Blue Mango Coffee House is soliciting musicians of all kinds to perform Thursday through Sunday nights, 9:30 p.m. to midnight. Classical, international, folk, jazz, blues, or acoustic rock; solo or groups are invited to audition. Play in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere. Small stipend, meal coupons, and tips are available for performers.

The Blue Mango is a cooperative, vegetarian restaurant, employee-owned and managed, whose purpose is defined as promoting "Nourishment, Consciousness, and Creativity." Inside, work by local artists, painters, and sculptors is displayed monthly. The collective is also committed to showcasing musicians at the evening coffee house, offering our special coffees, espressos, and fresh-baked desserts. There is no age requirement and never a cover charge.

Call the Blue Mango, 756-2616, or Russell St. Clair at 753-7626 for information or an audition. \*

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## ITEMS

## Happy (Busy) Holidays!

By RICK VAN DYKE

River City Business Association is throwing its annual Christmas/Hanukah Party at the Club 21 on Thursday, Dec. 16. The fun begins at 8 p.m., and includes entertainment, a raffle, and a buffet. RCBA says, "We invite our members, associates, guests, and friends to attend—and that means just about everyone you know." The raffle benefits RCBA's River City Community Fund—a worthy cause. Don't miss it!

The Choral Majority sings at the fourth anniversary party of the Sacramento Men's Collective at La Semilla on Friday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. The two men and two women of this campy quartet from San Francisco specialize in social satire sung to the tunes of old favorite hymns and other songs. Your \$5 ticket, available at the door, is also good for the wine and cheese reception at the concert.

Get in the holiday mood with Christmas songs: Joyful Noise, Sacramento's leading gay gospel group, is presenting "A Night of Miracles" at River City MCC, 2741 34th Street, Sunday, Dec. 19, at 7:45 p.m. The free performance will feature group singing and solos, and a coffee reception will follow in the social hall. You can call 454-4762 for details.

Also on the 19th, the Grand Marquise Carol McFarland presents the annual GNIE Christmas Party at the Parking Lot at 7 p.m. The evening will feature hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, light entertainment, a Christmas sing-along, a no-host bar, and the presentation of the Community Awareness Award.

Two gay movies will have a one-night stand Tuesday, Dec. 21 at the Showcase Cinema. You'll probably not want to miss "You Are Not Alone" and "A Very Natural Thing."

Thanks to Chris Galvez for the information that the Sacramento Women's Rugby Club is sponsoring a raffle at the Diamond Butterfly on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 8 p.m. Among the valuable prizes are T-shirts, a rugby ball, and a one-year subscription to The Sacramento Star.

Special Christmas Eve services will be held at 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, at River City MCC. They'll also have a New Year's Eve service at 11 p.m.

What are you doing New Year's Eve? The Sacramento Rape Crisis Center suggests that if you're tired of the bar scene, but still want to go out and party, you can celebrate the coming of 1983 to the sound of two bands, Filly and Betty and Them, for only \$5. The fun starts at 9 p.m. and ends at 2 a.m., at La Semilla Cultural Center, 312 20th Street. Tickets are available in advance at La Semilla and Lioness Bookstore, and will also be sold at the door. Part of the proceeds will benefit the Rape Crisis Center.

If you're in the Stanislaus County area on New Year's Eve, the place to celebrate will be the New Year's Dance put on by the Stanislaus Gay Alliance, Metropolitan Community Church, and the Stanislaus Owl Empire. The time is 8 p.m. till 2 a.m. and the place is St. Stanislaus Hall, 1416 Maze Boulevard, Modesto. The celebration will feature a buffet, champagne, and a no-host bar. Advance tickets at \$7.50 are available from S.G.A., P.O. Box 5163, Modesto, CA 95352 until Dec. 22. They'll be \$10 at the door.

Here's a riddle for all you computer types: What's the difference between VD and VDT? Give up? It's that VD isn't necessarily terminal, of course!

Is your club or organization interested in showing or seeing the documentary film "Pink Triangles," about oppression of lesbian and gay people? If you are interested, contact Dignity (739-8353)—they're trying to round up enough sponsors to make it affordable to show the second week in February.

The Rev. Elder Freda Smith, pastor of Sacramento's River City Metropolitan Community Church, was in Seattle Dec. 4 and 5, preaching and leading a spiritual renewal at the MCC there. The NW Fountain, the Northwest's gay newspaper, called her "the most dynamic preacher in America."

When the Salvation Army's grocery voucher program in San Francisco had to shut down Dec. 7 because it went through \$60,000 in three days instead of two weeks, the whole community chipped in with donations to get it going again. The largest single donation—\$20,000—came from W. Jay Freezer, the controversial owner of Pacific Western Distributing Co. and Pharmex Ltd., manufacturer of Rush "liquid incense." Freezer made his gift on behalf of his employees and the gay community, he said.

Dr. Sandy Pomerantz says he's going to be making a presentation to the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, probably in January. His topic will be some health care issues especially relevant to gay men and lesbians, and how parents can find out about them and deal with them.

Dignity/Sacramento got a big help with its monthly newsletter recently from St. Francis Church, its host parish. The parish council, which supports several other parish-related newsletters, voted to cover the cost of duplicating and mailing Dignity's newsletter, which goes to more than 300 gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends every month.

You read it first in The Star: the Lesbian and Gay People's Union at CSUS will host the second annual conference of the Western Regional Lesbian and Gay Students Association, probably in February. Last year's conference, in San Francisco, attracted folks from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and Arizona as well as California. Look for some excellent programs and speakers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, dear readers! May peace and love and abundant blessings be yours. \*



Rick Van Dyke

## Lovers' Benefits Vetoed From Page 1

visor Harvey Milk. "She's always said how nice (we) little gay boys are and thrown us bits and pieces, so I guess I really shouldn't be surprised."

In an unprecedented move in November, the San Francisco Retirement Board granted \$5,500 in survivor's death benefits to Smith, 34, who lived with Milk for five years. It marked the first time such benefits were given the survivor of a gay relationship.

When asked if the mayor's veto was a blow to gay political power, Smith replied, "She'll find out (during the city elections in) November how much of a setback and for whom."

"I think it's a (political) setback, there's no question about that," said Feinstein, confirming that political advisors told her to sign the law.

"I came to the conclusion that if I signed legislation I didn't think was good for the people of this city, I don't deserve to be mayor," she added.

"I go out all over this world, and I speak about and defend this city ... making people understand our city's tradition of human rights, of tolerance, of what the gay community has contributed to the city," the mayor said. "This is not the document I can go out and defend."

One place Feinstein did not get to go and speak was a fundraiser for the Houston Committee of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a nationwide financial support effort for pro-gay candidates. The mayor, in Houston for a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, had been invited to address the group on Dec. 10. The invitation was withdrawn after the veto, at the urging of gay leaders across the nation.

Feinstein said that before announcing the veto, she met with a group of gays and offered to "sit down and see if we cannot draft a piece of legislation that does not have the problems this legislation has."

Feinstein said she decided to block the ordinance because it was vague and unclear, particularly a clause stating: "Whenever the City and County of San Francisco uses marriage as a factor in making any decision ... it shall use domestic partnership in the same way."

The proposal, written by gay Supervisor Harry Britt, would have granted benefits to the "principal domestic partners" of people who were unmarried but have shared the "common necessities of life" for six months or more.

The Board of Supervisors, which approved the plan 8-3 on Nov. 29, apparently has the votes to override the mayor's veto and send it to the city's

seven-member health system panel for implementation. However, supervisors Louise Renne and Willie Kennedy, who voted for the ordinance, indicated that they would not vote to override the veto.

Dana Van Gorder, legislative aide to Britt, who was in Philadelphia the day of the veto, said, "It is not always easy to override a veto," he said. "But we do potentially have the votes, and we will attempt to override."

The program was opposed by the health service panel, which would be under pressure to offer it to the city's 30,000 workers. Supporters estimate the plan would extend benefits to an additional 3,000 people.

In addition to health coverage, city workers would have the right to a day of bereavement leave to attend a partner's funeral, and live-in lovers would be permitted to visit city jails and intensive care units, where only spouses are now allowed.

However, Feinstein said those benefits already were available to live-in lovers "administratively." \*

## Coke Is Organizing Softball League

The Wreck Room Stars (softball team) will be spearheading a drive to start a new Central Valley Gay Softball League. A committee is being formed to help develop the structure in which the league will operate.

According to organizer Paul Coke, "It is very important that league organizational business be conducted during the winter months so that league play can begin in the spring/summer months. The potential of the CVGSL is endless. Teams from Fresno, Modesto, Stockton, Chico, Reno, South Lake Tahoe, Davis, and Sacramento (as many as four potential teams) could make this an exciting league."

Coke added "This will open up new areas for gay sports. Just think, your community can be active in gay sports, get into the spirit, participate in tournaments and perhaps represent the league at the 1983 gay world series. But, before these activities can take place, a league must be formed. So this is your opportunity to be active and get into the spirit of gay sports."

Interested persons can contact Central Valley Gay Softball League, 4610 Attawa Avenue, Sacramento, 95822, or leave their name, address, and phone number at the Wreck Room. \*

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★ Power Plant ..... 21st & S Street

★ Robin Hood's ..... 1905 Capitol

★ Sac City College ..... Women's Center

★ Sacramento Peace Center ..... 1917-A 16th

★ Showcase Cinema ..... 412 L Street

★ Sierra 2 ..... 2791 24th Street

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